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After The World Dies

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Chapter 1 by Kallaway Haystings

The fires were still burning in the city. Above, black clouds gathered, thunder echoing in an ominous warning. The Evac system must have been tripped, a surprise, seeing as all the backup power generators had been depleted after the first two weeks, causing alarms to sound all across the city. The sound, a warning of impending doom. But the streets were still. Hover Crafts stood grounded in the streets and the public transit trains hung limp in their magnetic housings. The multibillion housing units that once hovered above the city, reflecting the light of the 12 moons ringing the off world station Chiro 0.1, where now gone from the higher atmosphere. Made from iron and reinforced Star Glass, they didn't shatter or break when they had fallen, but no station was made to withstand wrought iron Star Glass and steel falling from 10 kilometers. They broke through the upper crust and obliterated four of the seven Life Support Bays. The Water Bays had been destroyed as well. All water barrels had been crushed. My guess, the water hadn't been able to drain fast enough and flooded the electrical systems in the very heart of the station, causing the emergency systems to short out and fail. I guessed Chiro 0.1 had three, maybe four weeks left. Maybe.

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could even fix some of it we could at least buy ourselves a few more weeks. We could call for help, and try to evacuate as many as we could... we had enough ships for a few thousand but not even half of us could make it that way. Some of the ships had already panicked and left making things worse. As for the rescue, a deep space jump to get to our planet could take months. We were at least 7 week long jumps from earth, 4 to the nearest colony. We could sit around and do nothing, maybe just party until we all died... or we could go back to Alpha-LZ.

The Alpha-LZ was our initial base on the planet. Much smaller than the current one that we had built... it had everything we needed, water and air purifiers, beds, generators... it also happened to be infested with /gorzak/. Disgusting and dangerous little aliens. Think about a slimy dog with tentacles. That's pretty much a gorzak for you. Retaking the base would solve our problems... but how am I gonna get anyone to sign up for that?

Chapter 3 by Amelia Rose



The problem is, I'm not. No one would do it. It's too dangerous.

I let out a sigh, and shook my head. I was so tired, and stressed. We had a number of weeks to fix our world, a task nearly impossible, and I was losing it.

"I just wish it had never happened, Wilo." I muttered to my best friend.

We were lying in my assigned room, a dormitory bigger than most, as I was the leader of the Chiro. They were lying on my couch, playing with one of my roommate, Mei's, old-timey video games. Even though they were semi distracted, I knew they were listening to every word. Wilo was a good listener.

"So do I, C. I can see how stressed you are, and I can see how scared everyone else is. But I believe in you, C. I believe that you'll get us out of this mess. We'll be okay, alright?" Wilo says, taking a moment to glance back at me as I cook dinner for Mei and I.

I sigh again, stirring the pasta sauce, something bizarre from a jar in our storage bays. "I hope so,

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After a few minutes, Wilo turns to me and leans his head against mine, his arms wrapped around their bare head and smiles over to me. "I believe in you, C."

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I smile back. "Of course I do, but between the two of us, we did the hell out of this."

Wilo nods. "Not too bad. They're too excited to be too nervous. The baby is due any day now, you know. How about Mei? I know work is stressful in the engineering field right now."

I shrug. "Mei seems to be taking it alright. They have a job mostly away from all the stress going on below, so they miss most of it."

Wilo nods, and heads to the door. "Alright, C. I'll talk to you soon, okay? I'll send you a message when the baby comes, and you can come drop by, whatever is going on up here."

I smile back, but I can't imagine leaving the office when everything is up in the air right now. Wilo doesn't notice the hesitation in my eyes, and just waves, and heads out the door.

I heave yet another sigh once they are gone, and look to the pasta. I curse. It's gone soggy.

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